

EXHIBIT 3  
DATE 2.21.07  
HB HJ40

CHIPPEWA CREE TRIBE OF THE ROCKY BOY'S  
RESERVATION

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION  
NO. 40  
INTRODUCED BY HOUSE REPRESENTATIVE JONATHAN  
WINDY BOY:

“A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE  
OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA  
URGING CONGRESS TO APPROVE INCREASED FUNDING  
FOR REGIONAL WATER PROJECTS IN MONTANA”

TESTIMONY PRESENTED BY:  
BRUCE SUNCHILD

PRESENTED TO:  
HONORABLE ALAN OLSON, CHAIRMAN  
HONORABLE GEORGE G. GROESBECK, VICE-CHAIR  
HONORABLE HARRY KLOCK, VICE-CHAIR  
HOUSE FEDERAL RELATIONS, ENERGY AND  
TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

FEBRUARY 21, 2007  
STATE CAPITOL ROOM 72  
HELENA, MONTANA

## INTRODUCTION

Good Afternoon, Honorable Chairman Olson, Vice-Chairs Groesbeck and Klock and Members of the Committee. My name is Bruce Sunchild, Sr., and I had served as the former Vice-Chairman of my Tribe and long time supporter of bringing clean drinking water to both to our reservation and to the communities in North Central Montana.

The Chippewa Cree Tribe of the Rocky Boy's Reservation respectfully submits this testimony in support of House Joint Resolution No. 40: "A Joint Resolution of the House and Senate and the House of Representatives of the State of Montana Urging Congress to Approve Increased Funding for Regional Water Projects in Montana." The bill is sponsored by our House Representative Jonathan Windy Boy and provides support for the continuation of Congressional appropriations for Montana's authorized regional water projects.

The Chippewa Cree Tribe in partnership with the North Central Regional Water Authority is constructing the Rocky Boy's/North Central Montana Regional Water System which was authorized by Congress in 2002. The regional water project is a historic endeavor between the Tribe, the State and Federal Governments and our most importantly neighboring communities. We have all come together because of our mutual need for quality drinking water in our respective communities. We have stuck together through good and bad times and have become good friends as well as project partners. Over ten years ago, we formed a joint steering committee between the Tribe and Regional Water Authority and we meet monthly to jointly coordinate the direction of the project. We work very closely with the State Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) and the State Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) as well with the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR), Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to help us build a regional water system to ensure a safe and adequate rural,

municipal and industrial water supply for the residents of the reservation and the North Central Montana communities involved with the project.

The Joint Resolution being considered today will provide additional support for the continuation of Congressional funding for our regional water projects. When Congress authorized the regional water project in 2002 we anticipated a federal appropriation schedule of approximately 10 years depending on federal appropriations. Since authorization in 2002, the project has received approximately \$7 million of federal funds, including \$5.75 during FY 06. The indexed authorized project cost is \$300 million in year 2007 dollars. For this regional water project to deliver water in our lifetime we need to have Congress to step up to the plate and appropriate some real money to our regional water projects in Montana. Otherwise we will become another authorized water project collecting dust because of no appropriations. We have fought too long and hard for this to happen and we urge you to support and approve this Joint

Resolution urging Congress to approve increased funding for regional water projects in Montana.

On behalf of the Chippewa Cree Tribe of the Rocky Boy's reservation, I urge you to approve House Joint Resolution No. 40. I also would like to thank the Honorable Chairman and members of the Committee for allowing us to testify today in support of H.J. 40 and to personally thank Representative Windy Boy or Jonathan as we know him for sponsoring this Resolution. Thank you.